

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

**Proposing rule making related to standards for preparation exams and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 79, “Standards for Practitioner and Administrator Preparation Programs,” Iowa Administrative Code.

*Legal Authority for Rule Making*

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 256.7(5), 256.7(3) and 256.16(3).

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 256.16 as amended by 2019 Iowa Acts, Senate File 159.

*Purpose and Summary*

Chapter 79 outlines the standards and program requirements that all traditional educator preparation programs must meet in order to be accredited to prepare educators in Iowa. Compliance with these standards is required and is evaluated during each educator preparation program’s accreditation review. The standards are also applied in an annual reporting system. This rule making updates current standards due to changes made to the Iowa Code during the 2019 Legislative Session and to remain current with national standards for educator preparation.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

An agencywide waiver provision is provided for in 281—Chapter 4.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written or oral comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written or oral comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on June 25, 2019. Comments should be directed to:

Nicole Proesch  
General Counsel  
Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building, Second Floor  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0416  
Phone: 515.281.8661  
Fax: 515.242.5988  
Email: [nicole.proesch@iowa.gov](mailto:nicole.proesch@iowa.gov)

### *Public Hearing*

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

June 25, 2019  
12 noon to 1 p.m.

State Board Room, Second Floor  
Grimes State Office Building  
East 14th Street and Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs by calling 515.281.5295.

### *Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making actions are proposed:

ITEM 1. Adopt the following **new** definition of “NELP standards” in rule **281—79.2(256)**:  
“*NELP standards*” means the National Educational Leadership Preparation standards for administrator preparation.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 79.10(4) as follows:

**79.10(4)** The unit demonstrates alignment of unit standards with current national professional standards for educator preparation. Teacher preparation must align with InTASC standards. Leadership preparation programs must align with ~~ISSL~~ NELP standards.

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 79.15(6) as follows:

**79.15(6)** Assessment requirements.

*a.* Each teacher candidate must either meet or exceed a score ~~above the 25th percentile nationally~~ on subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area as approved by the director of the department of education, or the teacher candidate must meet or exceed the equivalent of a score ~~above the 25th percentile nationally~~ on an alternate assessment also approved by the director. That alternate assessment must be a valid and reliable subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for preservice teacher candidates that is centered on student learning. The required passing score will be determined by the director using considerations described in Iowa Code section 256.16(1) “a”(2) as amended by 2019 Iowa Acts, Senate File 159, section 2. A candidate who successfully completes the practitioner preparation program as required under this subparagraph shall be deemed to have attained a passing score on the assessments administered under this subparagraph even if the department subsequently sets different minimum passing scores.

*b.* The director shall waive the assessment requirements in 79.15(6) “a” for not more than one year for a person who has completed the course requirements for an approved practitioner preparation program but attained an assessment score below the minimum passing scores set by the department for successful completion of the program under 79.15(6) “a.” The department shall forward the names of all candidates granted a waiver to the board of educational examiners for consideration for a temporary license.

ITEM 4. Amend subrule 79.17(1) as follows:

**79.17(1)** Each educational administrator program shall define program standards (aligned with current ~~ISSL~~ NELP standards) and embed them in coursework and clinical experiences at a level appropriate for a novice administrator.